

FLD

704

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

COUNTRY	Uruguay	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	UGT Attempt to Extend Its Influence	DATE DISTR.	3 November 1953
25X1A		NO. OF PAGES	3
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	[REDACTED] 25X1A
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REFERENCES	[REDACTED]

25X1X

1. In recent months the Union General de Trabajadores (UGT) has been attempting to extend its influence among non-Communist labor unions and also to bring back to the UGT such former affiliated unions as the Union de Obrera Textil (UOT-Textile Workers' Union). It has become apparent that this attempt currently dominates the UGT program and that of the PCU itself. At present, this so-called "unity" campaign has not succeeded in introducing or returning to the UGT any major labor organization.¹ Sufficient progress, however has been made in certain spheres to give rise within the UGT to genuine enthusiasm over the prospects.
2. Among the Montevideo omnibus workers of the Union de Obreros y Empleados de AMDET (Municipal Omnibus Workers' Union) the UGT received at least a temporary set-back on 20 September 1953, when an election was held among the workers to determine by whom they would be represented. The UGT slate of candidates was defeated by a vote of 365 to 276, which, according to the system of proportional representation employed, gives the UGT slate a minority role in representation of the workers in this industry.² The UGT claims that it was not allowed to enter in the election such Communist figures as Ramon DIAZ, Severino ALONSO, and Hector BENTANCOURT, since prior to the election these AMDET workers had been "unjustly" expelled from the union by the anti-Communist leaders, Maximiliano PEREYRA and Ramon PUIG; and that in other respects, the election was not representative of AMDET worker sentiment.
- 25X1A [REDACTED]
3. As a part of the rather long-term UGT effort to regain supremacy, this Communist and UGT defeat cannot be viewed as permanent. The UGT, operating through its Comité de Unidad y Lucha (Committee for Unity and Struggle), will shortly return to the attack.
4. In the metallurgical field the UGT appears to have achieved a working unity of the following unions: Sindicato Unico de la Industria Metalurgica (SUIM), Federacion de Obreros Metalurgicos del Uruguay (FOMU), and the Asociacion del Personal de Talleres Automovilisticos (APTA). SUIM, under the leadership of

25X1A

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

- 2 -

Rosario PIETRARROIA, has long been affiliated with the UGT, while FOMU, over a considerable period of time, has increasingly surrendered its leadership to the UGT's Mesa Unitaria de Sindicatos Autonomos y Ugetistas, aka Mesa Unitaria, which is nothing more than a UGT instrument. APTA, a union of some 400 members which is also affiliated with the Mesa Unitaria, has a long record of submission to UGT leadership. Since SUIM and FOMU have memberships estimated at 9,000 and 3,500 members respectively, the de facto federation of these unions already gives the UGT a preponderant position in the metallurgical field.

5. The next step of the UGT in the unity campaign in this industry was to be a joint meeting of SUIM, FOMU, and APTA, to be held from 9-11 October 1953. The purpose of this meeting has been described by Hector LUJAN, an APTA leader, as that of "taking a (unified) position with respect to the worker movement in general." It is understood that the fundamental purpose of this meeting will be to form a new organization incorporating these unions and to lay down its fundamental orientation. In this regard LUJAN has stated that "(the orientation) will be nothing more than that of the Union General de Trabajadores." The system adopted for naming delegates to this assembly, on a factory or industry basis, would seem to assure SUIM and the UGT a preponderant voice.

6. These three metallurgical unions laid the groundwork for this amalgamation by a series of joint and co-ordinated activities, the most recent of which were a 12-hour work stoppage and joint assembly, both held on 21 August 1953. The following metallurgical leaders played prominent roles: Pedro TOLEDO, Rosario PIETRARROIA, Genardo CUESTAS, Martin GIL, Anselmo CANAVESI, aka CANAVESSI, Teofilo C. BELLERO, Hector LUJAN, OTERO (fnu), PANIZZA (fnu), and PIAGGIO (fnu). In addition, it has been reported that Jose WOLMAN, a young and highly trusted PCU leader, played a significant part in the organization of the meeting scheduled for 9-11 October 1953.

7. UGT agitation also continues among textile workers to bring the UOT back to the UGT. Despite an absence of concrete events pointing to success, the UGT, through propaganda and visits may be slowly but successfully building up support among these workers. At any rate, it has been reported that the leadership of the UGT and of the PCU view this field as one of the most fertile for their unity effort. No UGT success in regaining the sympathies or allegiance of Hector RODRIGUEZ, leader of the UOT, has been reported.

8. The UGT's Sindicato Unico de la Construccion (SUC), which dominates the construction field, held another joint non-Communist assembly on 16 August 1953 with the Sindicato Autonomo de la Construccion (SAC), which is under the leadership of one Juan A. PEREYRA, a Socialist, and one MARENALES (fnu). At this meeting these two leaders of SAC bluntly stated in effect that since the SUC assumed a dominant position the construction workers have lost many of the gains they had won prior to that time. The assembly at that point became turbulent, and no further progress towards unity was made. The SAC rejected the idea of a "liaison committee" as suggested by the SUC, but indicated that complete unity of the two unions on terms more favorable to the SAC would be acceptable. Despite this setback, the SUC continues to issue propaganda on "points in common" between the two unions and has stated that the "(joint) assembly was successful in spite of the obstructionism of the divisionist groups headed by Juan A. PEREYRA and his friends."

9. In preparation for this assembly the SUC spent a considerable amount of money for propaganda. Several secret meetings of the Communists involved in this unity effort were held at PCU headquarters, Calle Sierra 1720, over which Mario ACOSTA, SUC leader, presided. Tactics for the assembly were carefully rehearsed and it was announced that "Party discipline" would be meted out to any Communist who did not adequately discharge his duty at the assembly. This is considered as an instance of the real identity of persons and interests prevailing between the PCU and the UGT. This situation was given an additional turn by the fact that PEREYRA became aware that these secret meetings had been held. Reportedly, it has made his resistance to the SUC more rigid.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

- 3 -

10. Apart from several small unions which have recently begun co-operating with the UGT, previously reported, the following labor groups of only slight importance are also following UGT leadership: Federacion Departamental de Trabajadores, which is composed principally of 300 salt workers from Salto; and the Curtidores de Nuevo Paris (New Paris Tanners' Union).

25X1A

11. The relatively poor state of organization prevailing among non-UGT unions has previously been described as one of the UGT's assets in its present unity campaign. Although this doubtless is one of the UGT's major advantages, the organizational fluidity of labor possibly resulting from it may, in the opinion of UGT leaders, give rise to a new labor group hostile to the interests of the UGT. This preoccupation reportedly restrains the UGT from using more aggressive tactics. It also focuses UGT interest on Antonio RICHERO and other labor figures who might serve as a nucleus for such a new labor group.

12. Viewing the UGT effort as a whole, it may be said that moderate success has been realized, but that a marked increase in UGT prestige or power has not yet resulted from the unity campaign.

1. [REDACTED] 25X1A

- 25X1X 2. [REDACTED] Comment. It is perhaps noteworthy that the total number of votes was no more than 15 percent of the total membership of the union, indicating, perhaps, widespread worker apathy towards this long-continuing struggle, which has become markedly factional.

CONFIDENTIAL